

September 26, 1960

Dr. C. B. van Niel
Hopkins Marine Station
Stanford University
Pacific Grove, California

Dear Kees:

I am rather anxiously looking for someone who can help me in the laboratory work for our exobiology program and I would be very grateful to you for any suggestions. While there will have to be industrial support for the actual design and construction of the instrumentation, there is a great deal of background work that we have to continue to do here. Ideally I would look for someone who was both an accomplished biophysicist with a specialty in optics and a microbiologist who had had considerable experience with the composition of soils from both a biological and a chemical standpoint. But I do not think it will be possible to find such a paragon and I would be content to find someone who was strong in any one of these respects. It is important, however, that whoever we get should know how to use a microscope and understand what he sees. For various reasons, this is getting to be more of a crash program than I would have liked and I am quite anxious to find someone who might be able to start on this fairly soon. We could offer a position as a research associate at a salary that should be quite competitive, taking into account the special demands of the pressure of time.

I would be especially interested if you could recommend anyone in this last year's microbiology class and of course, I would follow up with any approach.

I hope the October 29th date works out well for you and that we might see you here at that time. Until then,

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics